

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the non-final Office Action dated September 13, 2007. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Initially, the Examiner's indication that claims 3, 5, 7, 11 and 28 to 30 recite allowable subject matter is acknowledged with appreciation.

The drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(4). Having amended the specification to address the Examiner's concerns and also to correct a minor editorial error, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection and further examination.

Claims 2, 6 and 9 were objected to under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2, as allegedly being indefinite. As indicated above, claim 2 has been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Since the terms "the center of force" and "compensated" are not found in claims 6 and 9, respectively, the Applicants are unable to address the Examiner's specific concerns. Nevertheless, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have additional concerns regarding these claims, the Applicants' undersigned representative respectfully requests that an opportunity be provided to address these issues over the telephone at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8 to 10, and 12 to 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent Application No. 5,993,400 ("Rincoe"). In response, independent claims 1 and 25 have been rewritten to respectively recite the substance of allowed claims 3 and 28, new independent claims 31 and 32, which respectively recite the substance of allowed claims 7 and 11, have been added, and the remaining rejected claims have been cancelled. Withdrawal of all of the rejections as moot, an indication of allowance for all claims, and early passage to issue are respectfully requested.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define additional aspects of the disclosure, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

It is believed that all of the pending issues have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, objection, issue, or comment, including the Office Action's characterizations of the references, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue, or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment or cancellation of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment or cancellation. Since the amendments made herein have been made solely in an effort to expedite advancement of this case, the Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the rejected claims in further prosecution of this or related applications.

Fees in the amount of \$210 for the excess claims are being paid by way of the Electronic Filing System (EFS). Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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